



Washington State Commission on

Asian Pacific American Affairs

Leader in
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E-Legislative Update

February 26 – March 4, 2012



With only a few weeks left to the regular legislative session, the budget is at center stage. A modest increase in revenue combined with an improved caseload forecast has strengthened our state's financial outlook, reducing a roughly \$900 million shortfall to about \$500 million.

On the heels of this news, House Democrats unveiled their supplemental budget proposal. The proposal does not ask voters to consider a temporary sales tax increase and leaves \$504 million in reserves and addresses a \$1 billion budget problem through June 2013. The proposal also calls for \$65 million in reductions to higher education and \$224 million in reductions to health care and human service programs. The Senate is expected to unveil their budget proposal in the near future. You may view the House and Senate proposals [here](#). The 60-day legislative session ends on March 8, 2012.

You have an opportunity to voice your opinion on the budget and bills by [contacting your legislator](#). You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

Because the state budget is an overarching issue, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs will provide updates on important milestones in budget development as well as focus on bills that impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs provides information weekly through our e-legislative update and website on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview highlighting a few bills of interest to the community while our website hosts a more extensive list of bills utilizing a [bill tracking](#) feature for those community members seeking more information. Highlights from the previous week can be viewed on [TVW's](#) Legislative Review.

Information is current as of: February 23, 2012.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>.

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).